



**The
search
for names**



**Sibling
pilgrimage**



**Launch
nears for
Lisbon
Maru
film**



**Scarfe
Victoria
Cross
Appeal**

COFEPOW Quarterly is a review magazine, informing members of events and opinions expressed over a three-month period. Please visit the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cofepow for regular updates.

CoFEPOW Quarterly

The official newsletter of the Children, Families and Friends of the Far East Prisoners of War and FEPOW Associations • Issue 101 • April 2023

'Last' Kwai bridge POW marks 103rd

Cyril Doy is believed to be the very last survivor from those many thousands of British and Commonwealth troops who laboured on the infamous bridge over the river Kwai on the Thai/Burma railway, whilst held as a POW during the war.

COFEPOW is enormously proud to report on the celebrations which took place with his family and friends in January this year, which marked the arrival of Cyril's 103rd birthday.

Cyril was a 22-year-old British Army private in the 6th Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment, largely confined to guard duties, including at the royal residence at Sandringham, until he and thousands more were shipped en-route to the middle east in 1941, only to be hurriedly diverted to defend Singapore against the Japanese invasion. Not long after arrival, he was captured at the fall of Singapore in 1942. It was the start of three-and-a-half years of disease and brutality as he and others were forced to build the infamous 'Railway of Death'.

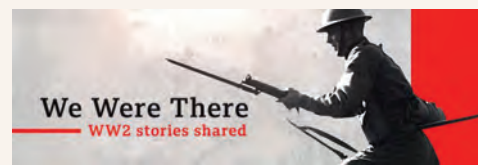


Cyril at home with his family.

On Cyril's return to the UK after release in 1945, he built a happy family life, successfully running a shop and mill in his home town of Southwold in Suffolk, where he grew up and still lives today.

The editors of COFEPOW Quarterly would be fascinated to hear from members of any other surviving former FEPOW relative who was held on the Kwai bridge. Please see page 4 inside for newsletter contact details and page 14 for more of Cyril's story.

This story was inspired by the Express online.



BBC invites first-hand accounts

2025 will mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two, ahead of which the BBC is trying to gather as many first-hand accounts from today's surviving veterans as possible, to preserve their experience and testimony for future generations.

Working with partners, including the Royal British Legion among others, the BBC has already spoken to many men and women who served during the war, whose testimonies are on the 'BBC We Were There' page.

If you have a story to share, or know someone who does, please visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63544616> and use the form to tell the BBC more. Or you can email the BBC at haveyoursay@bbc.co.uk. and include a contact number if you are willing to speak to a BBC journalist. You can also get in touch in the following ways: WhatsApp: +44 7756 165803 Tweet: @BBC_HaveYourSay

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Chair's Notes

“ Comings and goings.

One of the constants in life is change and in COFEPOW, it is no different.

In the quarter just passed, we have seen the departure from the COFEPOW charity of Secretary, Robert Hawke. Clearly when there is a disagreement which cannot be resolved, then it is understandable that he felt it necessary to leave. The trustees wish him well in what the future holds for him.

We now have the task of recruiting a new Secretary which will take time. The trustee team is a friendly group and we welcome anyone who would help us to move the charity forward.

On the positive side, we are delighted to be joined by Nikki Archer-Waring, as National Event Co-ordinator. I met her for an interview, accompanied by Chris Wills, and was really impressed with the knowledge and enthusiasm she will bring to the role. Her knowledge of the travel industry is extensive, so we may look forward to some new items on our calendar! At present, there will be plenty to do with getting the existing programme completed.

May I pass my personal thanks to Chris Wills who has produced so many events for us for so many years. The jewel in the crown was the VJ75 commemorative event in 2015, with the service at Lichfield Cathedral, followed by the dinner in the evening with the patrons and then our part in the special events and service at the National Memorial Arboretum on the following day. It was a truly spectacular occasion, with COFEPOW's part in it orchestrated from top to bottom by Chris, and proved to be a most appropriate and significant way to remember and honour our FEPOWs' memories.

Chris will continue as a trustee, so we will benefit from her knowledge and expertise hopefully for many years to come.

David Brede,
Chair, COFEPOW.



Nikki takes the helm on events

Nikki Archer-Waring has accepted the post of National Events Co-ordinator for COFEPOW, taking over from Chris Wills, who has stepped down after 16 years. The trustees welcome Nikki to the charity and wish her the very best during her time in this rewarding role. She takes up her story...

"I am honoured to be appointed as your new National Events Co-ordinator. I have spent many years honouring and researching my mother, Anita's, family who lived in Malaya and Singapore for three generations before the war. Thankfully, she and her immediate family were evacuated in October 1941, however, many family members, both military and civilian, were either killed or imprisoned. My civilian great grandfather, Samuel Yeomans and my step grandfather, Cedric Clarkson, spent time in captivity in the Far-East, so I have a personal connection to COFEPOW and an empathy with those who share a family imprisonment heritage. I am eager to learn about the camps where my family were imprisoned and exchange information with members.

"I come to COFEPOW with a wealth of knowledge, which I trust will enable us all to expand our horizons and share events and experiences with each other. For 11 years, my Australian partner Graeme and I owned and operated a tour and travel company called "Spirit of Remembrance", which organised worldwide battlefield and remembrance tours. We specialised in researching veterans' family and military service history, then creating an individual or group tour visiting key locations worldwide and learning about their story. In addition to British veterans and families, we arranged tours for Australians and Canadians. It was our passion and our joy. Sadly, we were forced to close in November 2021 due to



COVID, leaving a vacuum in my life as I really miss working with veterans and their families, plus organising tours and events.

"Our business was a natural progression from my 30 years in the travel industry and my previous post as Head of Travel for the Royal British Legion, during which time I worked with the MoD on the War Widows Grant-in-Aid Scheme and Big Lottery Fund on the Heroes Return 2 Scheme.

"For interest, my great grandfather, Samuel Yeomans (1876-1949) was imprisoned in Changi (camp ID 5566) and Sime Road. My step grandfather, Cedric Clarkson (1912-1944) no. 793769, 9th Coast Regiment, RA., was captured in Singapore, held in Padang then Tekon Island. He was held as a POW on the 'Death Railway', then the Valley Road camp in Singapore, and died on 12.9.44, aboard the hell-ship Rakuyu Maru."

"I look forward to meeting you and exploring established and new ways to meet and share stories and would welcome your thoughts regarding activities and events that would be of interest.

So please contact me at:

Nikki Archer-Waring, 4 Swan Meadow, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5HW. Tel: 01672 216204. Email: events@cofepow.org.uk

Want to start organising events in your area?

Beyond the large national events that will be organised by Nikki, several local occasions and functions are held and managed by our Area Co-ordinators listed on the back page of this newsletter.

If you would like to start arranging events in your part of the country, which are not covered in the existing list, visit the COFEPOW website at <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/cofepow-events> and fill in the form.

We'll get back to you as soon as we can to assist in bringing you up to speed on the kinds of things you can do to help your local COFEPOW members enjoy their membership more.

All members welcome to VJ-Day commemorations and COFEPOW AGM, NMA Sunday, August 13th, 2023

As we return to some measure of normality following the pandemic, the trustees of COFEPOW plan to return to a traditional Service of Remembrance to commemorate the 78th anniversary of VJ-Day, on Sunday 13th August, at the NMA. Marking the Allied victory over the forces of Japan allows people to come together to honour the heroism of their forbears, many of whom endured unimaginable suffering and have now passed out of living memory.

The last couple of year's restrictions have severely impacted attendance, so it's hoped that larger numbers that joined members historically can now return. Many come to meet old and new friends at the Service at the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove, which follows the AGM.

The Trustees would be delighted if you can attend the Service. The AGM is held in the Aspects Conference Suite (situated where the marquee used to be) where members can listen to progress made within the COFEPOW charity in furthering its aim of establishing



and maintaining memorials and promoting educational material. The Accounts will be reviewed, and attendees will see where donations are allocated and how the charity is run generally. The trustees and other officers of COFEPOW will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available after the AGM, when you can chat and get to know other members and learn more of the work of the charity.



Agenda of the day's events

National Memorial Arboretum,
Alrewas, Nr. Lichfield, Staffordshire.

- 10.30** - The AGM will commence in the Aspects Conference Suite
- 12.00** - Break for lunch
- 13.00** - Salute at the FEPOW Memorial Building - The Last Post
- 13.45** - Return to the Aspects Conference Suite to attend the VJ-Day Commemorative Service
- 14.00** - Tea/coffee and biscuits and a chance to gather and meet friends
- 16.00** - Finish

The AGM will commence at 10.30 a.m., and should terminate at around 12.00 noon. Lunch can be obtained at the NMA restaurant, after which, members will be able to make the short walk to join the service at the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove, whereafter the laying of wreaths will take place. If you think you would like to attend the AGM and/or the Remembrance Service, it would help us in reserving seating and organising catering if you would contact the following as soon as possible to provisionally reserve a place: **Nikki Archer-Waring, COFEPOW National Event Co-ordinator, 4 Swan Meadow, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5HW. Tel: 01672 216204. Email: events@cofepow.org.uk**



Remembrance Day Service and Parade

Whitehall, 2023

COFEPOW has asked the Royal British Legion for tickets to the Cenotaph Service and Parade in Whitehall on Sunday November 12th., now that the situation regarding covid is allowing for a resumption of normality. Acknowledgement of our application has now been received from the RBL, and we'll receive further instructions from the Remembrance Events Team from May, as follows:

5th May - All association ticket requests to be submitted. Any requests received after this deadline will not be accepted.

25th May - RBL to confirm 2023 ticket allocation to each association.

25th August - Deadline for associations to complete individual participant information.

30th-31st October - Registration closes. E-tickets and instructions sent to individuals.

In July's issue of the newsletter, David Brede will provide further clarification. Meanwhile, if you would like to be considered for a ticket, **please register your interest by the 20th April latest, by contacting David Brede, COFEPOW Chair, by post at 3, Blossom Way, Little Billing, Northamptonshire NN3 9ET or by email at cofepow.chairman@gmail.com or by phone on 07930 960241.**

Please include your connection/relationship to the FEPOW you wish to represent in your message, and tickets received will be distributed on a first come, first served basis to those eligible.

Please be aware that:

- Those who wish to attend are advised that they must be on Whitehall by 9.00am: extra time is needed to go through security so it is an early start on what could be a cold and wet morning.

- There is a great deal of standing about from assembly, through the 11.00 Silence and Service and until the final march-off. The parade is dismissed at about 12.45.

- Once COFEPOW tickets are allocated, personal details are submitted to the RBL for security. Tickets are strictly non-transferable as they are issued to people by name and proof of ID will be required.

Remembrance Sunday, NMA November 12th, 2023

Following the last couple of years, where attendances at the FEPOW Memorial Building at the NMA have been hampered by Covid-19, we will be organising a normal wreath-laying on the 12th November, 2023, offered alongside the Cenotaph Parade in London.

We will meet at 10.15 a.m., in readiness for when the general service of remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffs., commences at 10.30 a.m.

When this service ends, we will parade to the nearby FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove, to lay our wreaths, after which, if you wish, you can rejoin the main body of the congregation at the end of one of the walks, to take part in the march-past and salute back closer to the entrance of the main NMA building. The COFEPOW trustees are hopeful more members will be encouraged to attend, following the removal of almost all government regulations after the pandemic which has severely hampered the charity's ability to conduct these important memorial services.

If you are interested in attending any or all of the Remembrance Service/Parade, please contact **Nikki Archer-Waring**, 4 Swan Meadow, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5HW. Telephone: 01672 216204. Email: events@cofepow.org.uk

COFEPOW Quarterly is available either as a printed multi-page A4 magazine, or as a PDF, emailed to your online address.

Published in January, April, July and October, it is edited and assembled by Chris Wills and Steve Riley, who are keen to receive all material from members, to contribute towards the newsletter.

Please send all photographs, illustrations, articles, notices and event information to either: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk or sriley.beeches@btinternet.com Thank you.

Robert Hawke leaves trustee/Secretary role

After serving as a trustee and Secretary of the COFEPOW charity for less than a year, Robert Hawke has regrettably made the decision to resign from both roles with immediate effect, following a disagreement with the trustees.

Robert was born in Singapore, the son of Bob Hawke of the Royal Corps of Signals, who had been held



as a POW and endured the horrors of incarceration on the Thai/Burma Railway. Bob was repatriated back to England after hostilities ended, but then returned to the Far-East to work in Singapore until 1959.

Robert spent most of his working career in the NHS and has now chosen to devote his time to life in Cornwall, his wife Wendy, and his hobbies.

The trustees and officers of COFEPOW would like to thank Robert for his contribution to the charity, and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Membership renewal fee payable in August!

The COFEPOW Membership Officer would like to remind all members that the annual renewal fees are due at the beginning of August. Please make sure that your full payment is made promptly and includes any other donation you would like to make, to help give us the finance to maintain the FEPOW Memorial Building, Garden and Grove at the NMA and other projects around the UK, whilst also funding commemorative services.

Please also note that all FEPOWs, civilian internees, spouses and widows

will not be required to pay for their membership.

Information on how to renew using the new online system devised to make renewing a much simpler process, are available on page 12, with contact details shown on the back page of this newsletter should you have difficulties in using the system.

Full details are available on the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk Thank you very much. The trustees look forward to your continued support.

Applications for Secretary

Applications are invited for the role of Secretary to the COFEPOW charity, after the resignation in December 2022 of Robert Hawke, following a disagreement with the trustees.

As a result, David Brede has resumed the role of interim Secretary alongside his position as Chair, until such time as a successful candidate can be appointed. This is a very important post within the charity, which will bring its own satisfaction. You will experience genuine pleasure in helping COFEPOW members, knowing that they will value and appreciate your input.

The role involves the following:

- *Supporting the Chairman and trustees*
- *Preparing documents and taking Minutes at the AGM and trustee meetings*
- *Handling correspondence, telephone calls, emails from members and*

external bodies

- *Issuing access to the FEPOW database*
- *Maintaining the data protection database.*

Full support and guidance will be offered to the successful candidate. The trustees are a friendly and dedicated bunch of all ages and will welcome anyone who has the best interests of the charity at heart.

The position is a voluntary one and no remuneration is available, as the charity derives its income entirely from memberships and donations.

If you are interested in the role, please contact **David Brede in writing**, by the end of July 2023, to 3 Blossom Way, Little Billing, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN3 9ET, or by email at cofepow.chairman@gmail.com

Should you wish to discuss the role first, please call **07930 960241**.



The Livermead House Hotel in Torquay is an elegant hotel, built in 1820 on the edge of Cockington Valley on Torquay Sea front in the heart of the English Riviera, Torbay, Devon.

The hotel offers a traditional flavour, breathtaking sea views, and high standards of service and cuisine with an award-winning chef. The Livermead House is one of three Rew Hotels, a family-owned and managed group of hotels on Torquay's water's edge. There's a pleasant level walk to the town centre, free on-site parking and free Wi-Fi internet access in all public areas. Tea/coffee will be offered on arrival. A full English or continental breakfast will be served each morning and a four-course table d'hôte dinner each evening. On the Saturday, there will be a complimentary drinks reception before dinner with entertainment on Friday and Saturday night and a complimentary meeting room for Sunday.

**The Livermead House Hotel,
Sea Front, Torquay TQ2 6QJ.
Friday 6th October to
Monday 9th of October 2023.**

Apology: the January edition showed the incorrect dates. Please note the correct dates for 2023 are Friday 6th to Monday 9th October.

**Two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast, just £176 per person.
Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast, just £242 per person.
Reservations are on a strictly first come, first served basis.**

Please note for 2023...

Due to last minute cancellations in 2022, the hotel lost almost £2,000 in business, and they can't afford for the same to happen again this year. Chris Wills would like to stress that this was no-one's fault, but with many cancellations being close to the date of the weekend, the hotel was unable to re-let the rooms or use the food already bought.

So, as part of the contracted agreement with Livermead House, COFEPOW guests who cancel within one calendar month prior to the next weekend (6th October 2023), will be liable to pay the full amount directly to the hotel. Whether or not you or your partner have any health concerns, it may be beneficial to take out holiday insurance for your stay next year.

Thank you.



COFEPOW Weekend Break - rebooking for 2023!

If you wish to extend your stay, extra nights will be £66 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast, for up to a maximum 7 night stay in total. There is no supplement for the first 6 single rooms (on a first come, first served basis) and any single rooms over will incur a supplement of £15 pppn. Sea view rooms carry a supplement of £10 pppn.

To secure your place, simply send your name, address, email (if you have one), telephone number, the number of people attending, the number of rooms required, the number of nights you wish to stay, the type of room, special requirements, i.e. sea-view, walk-in shower etc., together with a deposit of £25 per person to: **Chris Wills, 74, The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield B73 6SG. Tel: 0121 244 7263. email:**

chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk Cheques should be made payable to COFEPOW.

If you live locally and would just like to come to the Saturday night dinner, we can offer a special price of £25 per head – £9 less than the normal price.

We look forward to seeing you there later this year!



✂

Name		
Address		
	Post Code	
Tel no.	email	
No. of people	No. of rooms	No. of nights
Type of room (special requirements)		

Follow-up FEPOW trip to York cancelled in 2023



Outgoing National Event Co-ordinator, Chris Wills, had no alternative but to cancel the 2023 weekend trip to York, to be held to coincide with the 81st anniversary of the Fall of Singapore, following a lack of interest shown by members.

The event, which was deemed to be a solid success in February 2022 when the first trip was convened, was originally designed for COFEPOW members to formally come together during what was a significant anniversary in the FEPOW calendar. Enthusiasm for a reprise of the event in March this year, although initially encouraging, was tempered by a number of current factors, of course, but mainly believed to be because of the prevailing uncertainty regarding escalating living costs. Chris commented:

"The organisation of this year's trip started well when members were advised about the possibility of a second weekend, especially following how much people enjoyed it last year. Unfortunately, whether it was the cost of living crisis, energy price hikes or just all-round concern for the soaring costs of leisure weekends, not enough members committed to forwarding deposits in advance.

"We had no alternative therefore to cancel the trip as not enough people said 'yes', making progressing with the event less than worthwhile."

It is unknown at this stage whether the trip will be rescheduled for 2024.



Far-East advisor Martin renews offer of help

COFEPOW's Far-East Travel Advisor, Martin Prechner, has spent over a decade helping the charity's members to organise their own personal trips and itineraries to retrace or just visit the locations of their FEPOW family members' experiences during the war.

Having formerly lived in the region, his vast experience in helping organise trips is invaluable and he is anxious to continue in the role.

He outlines his services...

"I've been a member of COFEPOW since it was founded by Carol Cooper. When she visited Singapore (where I was living at the time) I was able to direct her to a location which was important in her father's story. She later asked me if I would take on the role of Travel Advisor for COFEPOW, in order to help other members who undertake trips to the Far-East and need some guidance on how to find FEPOW sites, plan an itinerary, make travel arrangements and so on.

"Having travelled regularly in the Far-East for over 20 years, and lived in Singapore and Thailand at various times, I've been able to pursue my interest in the FEPOW story and follow my father's journey during the war.

"In 2012, I undertook a trip to Java and Ambon with a group of FEPOW

relatives and one FEPOW who had been a prisoner in camps on both islands. We carried out extensive research to find the sites where the camps had been located, using pre-war Dutch maps and overlaying them with Google Earth.

"In many cases, there was no trace of the original camp when we arrived at the location we'd pinpointed, but surprisingly some of them still existed, almost unchanged in over 70 years.

"It was a very emotional moment for me to stand outside the hospital in Tjimahi where my father had been at the time of the Spice Island drafts. He was sick enough to avoid being sent to Haruku, and, given the attrition rate on those draughts, it's highly likely he wouldn't have returned and I wouldn't be in the above photo (or any other for that matter).

"If you're planning to go to the Far-East to retrace a family FEPOW's footsteps, or simply to familiarise yourself with some of the locations in the FEPOW story, and would like some advice on planning and organising your trip, I can be contacted at roquefort44@hotmail.com

Thank you."

Martin Prechner

The editors of COFEPOW Quarterly wish to clarify that the opinions, stories, features and information reproduced in this newsletter are generally submitted by contributors and do not reflect or otherwise, the opinions of the trustees of the charity. Whilst every effort is made to verify factual accuracy and content of material published, the trustees accept no responsibility for errors or beliefs printed here.

Robert McGechan's quest to list all civilian FEPOWs

After researching his family history, Robert McGechan discovered that very little information exists concerning civilian internees held in the Far-East. Robert reports on his research and his search for more names...

"My grandfather Robert McGechan, grandmother Janet (Nettie) McGechan and father Robert J.B. McGechan, were all interned at Batu Lintang Camp in Borneo. I believe, like all military personnel who were imprisoned, that civilian internees must be remembered, too, as their numbers are very often underestimated. Internees, including women, were forced to toil building roads, landing strips and other heavy works, and were also subject to severe punishment or torture for even a slight infraction of the Japanese codes.

"One famous POW at Batu Lintang camp was Agnes Keith, who, in 1947, wrote a book about her experience in the camp, called 'Three Came Home', which was later made into a film. After seeing the film, my grandmother's response was that reality was much harsher than shown. Before being interned, for example, my 6' grandfather weighed nearly 14st., my grandmother nearly 9st., and my father almost 12 stone. On release, they weighed 7st., 5st. and 6st. respectively.

"Following release from Batu Lintang, my family were taken to Labuan Island, from where my grandmother wrote a letter to relatives in Scotland detailing their capture, incarceration and subsequent release. Towards the end of the letter (pictured) she wrote,

"Well Minnie (her sister-in-law), I will have to stop meantime. I have sent a letter to Jimmie in Singapore, but I don't know yet whether he has left or not for Ceylon."

"On her return to Scotland the family were informed that Jimmie, her brother, also a civilian internee, had died in Sime Road POW Camp that June.

"After the war, a booklet was published listing the names of Batu Lintang POWs. I am not sure of the author's name, although my family did have a copy, signed by them, until I lent it to a family member who sadly failed to return it. So, it is in these civilians' honour that I would like to collate lists of civilian POWs in the Far-East and would hope to be able to add more names and to publish all my research on the COFEPOW website."



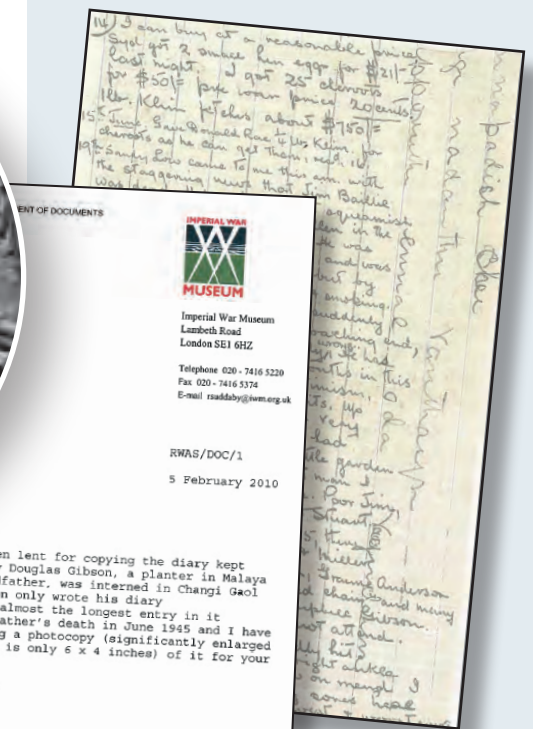
Brigadier Thomas Eastick addressing part of the parade at the surrender ceremony, 11 September 1945.

"To assemble data about Batu Lintang Camp that I have identified to date, I have used the internet, where I found a report of its internees, as follows:

- 134 British Officers and NCOs.**
- 178 Australian Officers and NCOs.**
- Unknown number of Dutch Officers/NCOs.**
- 1500 to 2000 British other ranks.**
- 2 huts of unknown British Indian Army.**
- Unknown number of KNIL soldiers.**
- 110 clergy.**
- 250 civilian men and boys over 10, who were considered men by Japanese.**
- 559 civilian women and girls.**

"Allied civilian POWs at the camp were brought from Borneo, North Borneo, Sarawak, Brunei and the Straights Settlement Island of Labuan. If these numbers were replicated across camps in the area, the total of all civilian internees of all races could be anywhere from 50,000 to 250,000. Should any reader, therefore, have any information on their internee relative who may have been held as a civilian in named camps, please contact me by email at: bobmcgechan@yahoo.co.uk

Alongside are the names already collated for Batu Lintang camp and that of James Baillie, about whom the letter refers. In the interests of space and legibility, please see full size copies on the COFEPOW website at: www.cofepow.org.uk



The letter Robert's grandmother wrote about her brother and confirmation of his fate in a letter from the Imperial War Museum.

Batu Lintang Camp:

Robert McGechan, Rubber Planter; Janet McGechan Nettie (wife), housewife; Robert J.B. McGechan, Rubber Planter; Agnes Keith, Author; Harry Keith, Forester; C.D. Le Gros Clarke, Secretary of Sarawak; Lt. Col. W.C.C. Adams, North Borneo Constabulary; Don Toxford & Son (8) (Mrs Toxford was not interned as she was a native); Grandmother Toxford; Aunt Toxford; Julia Toxford (daughter to Don Toxford); Mrs Dorrie Adams; Mother Bernardino; J.L. Noakes; Hilda Bates; L.E. Morris; E.R. Pepler; Bishop Francis S. Hollis; Edward Banks, Naturalist; Frank Bell, Educator; Dr. Marcus C. Clarke; Philip Crossland; Kenneth Hubert Digby; I.H.N. Evans, anthropologist; Randal Graham, child; Michael P. O'Connor, Doctor; Alan Rice Oxley, WWI Flying Ace; Charles Robert Smith, Governor of North Borneo; Keith Wookey, Colonial Administrator; George Cathcart Woolley, Colonial Administrator; William Young, Veteran of RFC; Mary Baldwin; Frances Colina (met her husband to be in Batu Lintang).

Sime Road POW Camp.

James Baillie

The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine confirms the date for hosting the Researching FEPOW History Conference

The deferred 2020 Researching FEPOW History Conference (RFHG) will take place on June 10th and 11th, at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (barring any last-minute unforeseen restrictions).

There are still a few places available so for details about the speakers, a registration form (1 per person please), go to: <https://fepowhistory.com>

Fund-raiser to replace Liverpool Repatriation Memorial plaque

Due to the effects of weathering, the original engraved granite Repatriation Memorial plaque on the Pier Head in Liverpool needs to be replaced. In October 2011, the plaque was unveiled in front of a crowd of over 650, following a successful national fund-raising appeal organised by the Researching FEPOW History Group.

The RFHG, working in partnership with other FEPOW groups, is planning to launch a national fund-raising campaign at the Liverpool conference this June, details of which are shown in the article above.

More information will follow from the RFHG in the coming months, which can be found on the RFHG and FEPOW club websites and via social media.

Siblings complete long-awaited pilgrimage to Railway



Brothers Alan and Alastair and sister Helena recount their January trip to Thailand, to trace the footsteps of their father, Richard Durden, while held as a FEPOW. The trio take up the story...

"Well, we finally did it! After years of planning and postponements due to Covid, I, together with my brother Alastair and sister Helena, embarked on a pilgrimage in January 2023 to the Thai/Burma railway, in memory of our father, Lieutenant Richard Joseph Durden.

"Dad joined the Royal Corps of Signals, 18th Division, in 1941 and, a few months after marrying our Mum, was sent to the Far-East for cable-laying work. It was on his first wedding anniversary, 15 February 1942, with the fall of Singapore, that he became a POW and spent the first 13 months of incarceration in Changi camp, before being sent to Thailand.

"Just over 80 years after his capture, we flew to Singapore for the first part of our pilgrimage - in vastly different conditions! We walked up Bukit Timah Road, which had been the scene of heavy fighting in early 1942, and was now a picture of calm. Here we visited the former Ford Factory, saw the very room where Lt. General Percival had signed the surrender document on 15 February 1942, and viewed the interesting exhibition recounting events before and after the capitulation.

"Another very informative exhibition was the Battlebox on Fort Canning Hill - an underground bunker

which served as the command centre after the Allied troops had retreated to Singapore. We had an excellent guided tour around the labyrinth of rooms and corridors, and learnt about the facts behind the decision to surrender.

"On our last day in Singapore, we travelled by metro and bus to Changi Chapel and Museum, which tells the story of POWs and civilians interned in Changi during the Japanese occupation, and gave us an intimate glimpse of what it must have been like for our Dad during his time there.

"For the next part of our pilgrimage, we flew to Bangkok, where we embarked on a truly memorable and moving visit to the infamous 'death railway'. The railway pilgrimage was a personalised tour organised by Terry Manttan of the Thai/Burma Railway Centre (TBRC). Starting in Kanchanaburi, we visited the railway centre, which has a remarkable museum presenting the truth about the conditions endured by the POWs. Here we met our hosts, Terry Manttan and Andrew Snow; the latter was to be our tour guide, taking us to the various parts of the railway where our Dad lived and worked during his 3½ years of captivity, and giving us the benefit of his extensive knowledge of the area and its place in the Second World War.

"The TBRC is situated next to the Kanchanaburi war cemetery, where British, Australian, Dutch and American service personnel are interred; it was sobering to see the rows of beautifully maintained graves, and

Continued on next page...



The bridge on the Kwai Noi river.

Continued from previous page...

then at the Chungkai cemetery a few miles away, and reflect on the tragic loss of life sustained by the Allies.

"Highlights of our pilgrimage were walking across the famous Bridge over the River Kwai (our hotel was situated within a short walk of the bridge); a boat trip on the River Kwai; and a ride on the existing part of the railway between Nam Tok and Kanchanaburi.

"We saw the incredible Wang Pho viaduct which carries the railway along a narrow, elevated track between the cliff face and the river; Dad spent a month in 1943 at a POW camp across the river from the viaduct.



The Wang Pho viaduct.

"A special moment was walking along an embankment on the now abandoned part of the railway at Hindat, and finding original rail spikes, near where Dad would have spent three months in early 1944; we were delighted to bring these home as souvenirs.

"On the last day of our pilgrimage, Andrew presented us with a dossier full of documents and war-time re-

cords about our Dad - the results of his research on our behalf into the archives at the TBRC, and a veritable treasure-trove.

"80 years on, we can hardly begin to imagine the appalling hardships our Dad would have had to endure. Much has obviously changed since then, but the landscape would be much the same and the reminders of a grim episode in our history are there for all to see. We can only be grateful that he came through the war relatively unscathed.

"The story of our pilgrimage really began back in 2007; after both our parents died, amongst the personal effects we inherited were the letters and postcards written home by our Dad from the Far-East, together with the book, 'Railroad of Death' by John Coast.

"We knew nothing of our Dad's time as a POW, apart from the fact that he had been a prisoner of the Japanese, as he never talked about it. But in the front of the book was a map of the Thai/Burma railway, on which our Dad had marked in the dates he was at the various POW camps. So began a quest to learn more about this hitherto hidden part of his life, and to retrace his steps.

"Then in 2019, I chanced on a magazine article about COFEPOW, joined the organisation, and discovered via the newsletters that the TBRC organise

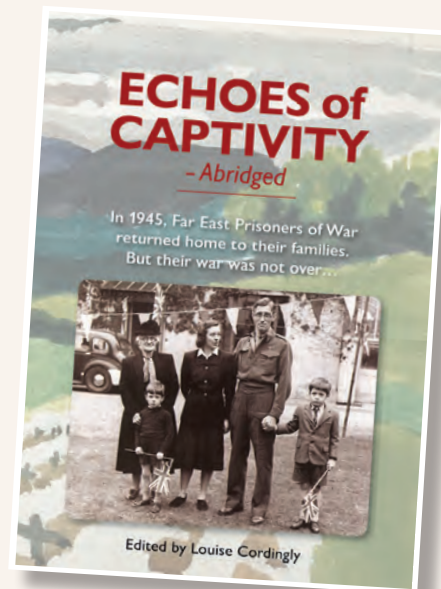
bespoke tours of the railway.

"So it's thanks to COFEPOW that our vague wishes became a reality, and it's thanks to the wonderful folks at the Thai/Burma Railway Centre that we were finally able to undertake this amazing and truly moving experience."

Alan Durden (and on behalf of Alastair Durden and Helena McIntyre)



Abridged 'Echoes of Captivity' issued



A new version of 'Echoes of Captivity,' by Louise Reynolds, has now been reprinted and issued in an abridged version.

The book is full of interviews with families of FEPOWs who have been affected by their fathers' traumatic experiences whilst held prisoner of war in the Far-East, and contains 15 interviews with sons and daughters who reflect on how they themselves have been affected, whether through breakdowns, depression or even flashbacks. Two interviews with professionals, who look at the trauma and how it was passed down, are also included.

Louise's father, Padre Cordingly was imprisoned in Changi and up in Thailand, and, as she is a trained psychotherapist, she felt it was appropriate for her to investigate closely the subject of trans-generational trauma within the FEPOW community. Louise commented on the re-issue:

"The abridged book now costs £10 which makes it more accessible and, as I've dedicated it to FEPOW families everywhere, I'd love to give the COFEPOW charity's members an early opportunity to read it. I think the interviews will resonate with their own experiences, which was really my aim". Copies are available for £10 (£12 to include p&p).

Contact louisereynolds99@aol.com

The book is also available on Amazon.

Peace and Reconciliation Reception



Mrs Keiko Holmes

Japanese Embassy, London, Friday 30th June 2023

Each year, invitations are extended to COFEPOW members to attend the Annual Reunion for Peace and Friendship reception at the Japanese Embassy in Piccadilly, London.

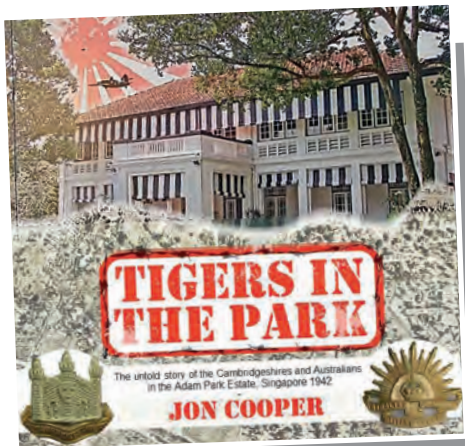
The event is largely inspired and promoted by Keiko Holmes at Agape World, an organisation founded by her to encourage reconciliation between the peoples of each nation, and is usually attended by at least one COFEPOW trustee amongst other COFEPOW member guests.

Keiko is a Japanese lady who married an Englishman, converted to Christianity and came to live in the UK. Since her husband died, she has worked tirelessly to help in organising trips for FEPOWs to Japan, in which to date almost 500 people have participated since the first in 1992. As a result of these pilgrimages, many FEPOWs expressed how their hatred towards Japan has been tempered by an admiration for the Japanese people.

Should anyone like to attend the embassy reception, who has not already received an invitation, please contact Keiko by email at: agape.kingdom@gmail.com with your name and the name and service number of your FEPOW.

Currently the embassy is proposing a start of between 5.00pm to 5.30pm until 7.00pm to 7.30pm – the time is yet to be confirmed.

Jon's 'Tigers in the Park' book published with online thesis



'Tigers in the Park - The untold story of the Cambridgeshires and Australians in the Adam Park Estate, Singapore 1942' has been published in the UK in January this year, by Caliver Books.

This 340-page, large format publication is extremely well-illustrated, in full colour where possible, and follows intensive research into the subject carried out by author Jon Cooper.

This remarkable and intimate story of the last stand of the 1st Cambridgeshires (The Fen Tigers) at the Adam Park Estate during the invasion of Singapore and the subsequent use of the 19 government colonial houses to hold 2,000 Australian POWs throughout the remaining months of 1942, is comprehensively and intricately detailed. However, what makes this book unique are the links with the Adam Park virtual museum (<http://www.adamparkproject.com/>) allowing the reader to view the source material, videos, maps, aerial photos and site reports on which the narrative is based.

This significant work is now available for sale at a price of £39.50 from <https://caliverbooks.com/bookview>



with royalties going towards the cost of maintaining the virtual museum.

Jon's fascinating thesis - also complete and available to read

In 2011, researchers at the National Archives in Kew found what they described as the 'Holy Grail' of documents relating to the internment of POWs in the Far-East.

The papers, raised by the Bureau of Record and Enquiry at Changi POW Camp, detail the movement and fate of all prisoners who passed through the gates. Among the files were those raised by the 2nd Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, the 2nd Gordon Highlanders, and the 155th Field Regiment (Lanarkshire Yeomanry).

Jon's PhD thesis at the University of Glasgow reviews the transition of the Scottish soldier from combatant to captive, determining how this affected a man's chance of survival in battle and imprisonment. Records revealed new evidence which challenged accepted history and provides a detailed insight into the lives of the men who found themselves at the edge of a crumbling empire, fighting a ruthless enemy in an unforgiving terrain.

Entitled 'The Tartan Tenko', copies of the thesis are available on-line from the university at <http://theses.gla.ac.uk/id/eprint/83013>

Donations of Artefacts

The COFEPOW charity has accepted and continues to accept relevant donations of POW authored publications, personal artefacts, souvenirs, mementoes and military keepsakes.

Whilst donations of these artefacts are gratefully received, the trustees cannot guarantee that they will be displayed in the FEPOW Building at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA), as we are unable to change the display cases in the downstairs exhibition area, and, of course, we are limited by space.

Please be assured that the donations of artefacts will be stored safely in the archives (upstairs in the Building) under lock and key, where there are security cameras. Unfortunately, the space in the archives is also limited and although we are not yet at full capacity, when it is full, we will regrettably have to turn down any further offers of donations.

If you wish to donate an artefact to the charity, please contact either Keith Andrews by email scubaka@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01530 450621, or Chris Wills by email at chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 0121 244 7263.

Elizabeth takes over West Sussex Area Co-ordinator role

COFEPOW would like to welcome Elizabeth Hallett to the role of Area Co-ordinator for the West Sussex region of the UK. Elizabeth takes over from Jill Robertson who has retired. The trustees would like to thank Jill for all her efforts on behalf of the charity over several years. She will remain an active supporter of COFEPOW wherever possible. Elizabeth commented with the following brief background:

"My father was in the army and fought in the Malaya Campaign, from the north of Malaya to Singapore, where he was captured and held in Changi for 18 months, then shipped to Hokkaido in Japan.

"He returned to England after

the war, arriving at Southampton on the Queen Elizabeth.

"In November, I usually attend the annual FEPOW Commemoration Service at Town Quay, Southampton (where many of the ships arrived with FEPOWs after the end of the war), I then attend the lunch following the service held nearby.

"If I hear about any FEPOW events I will email you and please let me know if you hear about any FEPOW events and I will let other West Sussex members know."

Elizabeth can be contacted by email at: wscofepow@gmail.com



amazon smile

Fund-raiser closes

Amazon has announced the closure of its charity donation scheme, 'AmazonSmile' and ceased operations on 20th February this year. COFEPOW derived a small amount towards its funds via the scheme, which saw the company donate a minimal percentage of the sale price of items on its website to a charity chosen by the customer when purchasing items on Amazon. The firm said the scheme had not had the impact it had wanted.

Many charities have said they are sad to see it go, with one saying small charities will suffer the most. The online retailer said the scheme had not "grown to create the impact that it had originally hoped", with the average donation to UK charities in 2022 less than £137. It is claimed an amount will be donated to participating organisations equivalent to six months of earnings from AmazonSmile in 2022. The scheme was launched in 2013.

#SaveTheScarfVC

We have to raise £250,000

Help us to ensure that this one of a kind medal is preserved for the nation. Your support will enable us to share Arthur Scarf's incredible story.

DONATE NOW



RAF Museum appeal to save only Far-East RAF VC

Arthur Scarf was the recipient of the only Victoria Cross awarded to the Royal Air Force during the Far-East campaign. The medal has been sold at auction to an overseas buyer, but the Royal Air Force Museum has been given until 30th April 2023 to fund-raise and match the sale price of £660,000. This will allow the museum to display the medal and share Arthur's amazing story.

Without your help, this medal will be lost to the nation. A contribution is being made from the museum's own funds, and there is also a potential grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. This rare medal, and Arthur's Story, represent an extraordinary story of great personal courage. If the museum is successful, the medal and bar will be displayed alongside other objects from the RAF's campaign in the Far-East, as part of the UK's National Collection.

Scarf was 28 years old, and a Squadron Leader in 62 Squadron. On 9th December 1941 in Malaya, near the Thai border, all aircraft were ordered to

make a daylight raid on Singora (where the Japanese Army was invading). Scarf had just taken off when enemy aircraft swept in destroying or disabling all the rest of the aircraft on the ground. Scarf nevertheless flew on alone and, despite attacks from roving fighters, completed his bombing run and was on his way back when his Bristol Blenheim aircraft was riddled with bullets. Scarf was mortally wounded and was drifting in and out of consciousness. He managed to crash-land his plane at Alor Star, without causing any injury to his crew, and was rushed to hospital where he died from his wounds, two hours later. Every contribution will play a part and no donation is too small to make a difference. Please visit the museum's **GoFundMe page at:** <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-the-scarf-vc/donate>

The museum would be grateful if you could help by also sharing Arthur's story on your social media #SavetheScarfVC and displaying the museum's GoFundMe page. Thank you.



Give as you Live®

Give as you Live online helps raise COFEPOW funds

Give as you Live Online is a free and easy way to help raise vital support funds for COFEPOW's work in maintaining memorials across Britain. By using this online site, you can shop at over 5,500 stores and whatever you purchase - from holidays and travel, to clothing and gifts - a small percentage from the sale goes to help raise significant sums from your everyday shopping, all at no extra cost to you. Simply sign up for an account and start shopping to make a difference. Visit the website now to register. <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/cofepow>

Guidance on new on-line membership system

The trustees are delighted with the progress being made in introducing a major technological improvement to the system used to record, retain and inform new and existing members.

'Memberstack', as the new system is known, is a significant move forward for the charity, although inevitably, with all things new, it's taking time to integrate into existing manual methods. The change in how COFEPOW logs and manages its membership data has also coincided with the transition from former, to new Membership Secretaries.

As work on the system progresses, there will be a delay in the announcement of new members, their contact details (if consented) and the brief description of their FEPOW relative's war-time experiences, in order that existing members can make contact if they wish.

Membership Self-Service Dashboard

This is a secure area where you can manage your membership. The Portal is available 24/7 and can be used to:

- Gain access to the list of FEPOWs
- Quickly access Area Co-ordinator contact details
- Quickly and easily renew your membership
- Update the postal address, email address or phone number linked to your membership
- Amend your contact preferences
- Sign up to our newsletter for access to the latest membership news

The trustees would like to assure all members, new and old, that their details will be managed within all data protection regulations, throughout their introduction and on-going useage within the COFEPOW database.

For new applications and renewals, including how to set up an annual payment to the charity for continued membership, please refer to the website at:

<https://www.cofepow.org.uk/membership>

Chinese Lisbon Maru feature film - UK launch date nears

Brian Finch has been assisting Laurel Films in the production of a comprehensive and authoritative documentary film about the sinking of the Lisbon Maru in 1942. Five years in the making, the film is nearing completion with final Chinese bureaucratic approvals expected shortly.



The sinking of the Lisbon Maru as drawn by a US serviceman.

Screenwriter and producer Fang Li, who runs Laurel Films, has a personal ambition to ensure that the 828 British POWs who perished in the massacre, are not forgotten. The incident is a well-documented example of the levels of cruelty meted out by Japanese military forces during the Far-East conflict. More than 1,800 POWs were aboard the unmarked freighter, sailing from Hong Kong to Japan, when it was torpedoed by an American submarine. As the vessel slowly slipped into the water, Japanese troops locked the unarmed men in the hold and shot those who tried to escape. The Japanese fled to another ship, where they kicked off British POWs who followed them, whilst picking off those POWs in the water for target practice as they swam forlornly amongst the shark-infested waters and wreckage. A group of Chinese fishermen in sampans saved 384 British soldiers from drowning, according to local wartime records, rescuing survivors and taking them to shore.

Laurel Films is an established Chinese film company and winner of international awards and plaudits. This is to be a major, full-length feature film and will be submitted to the Cannes Film Festival, which speaks volumes about the documentary's significance.

Brian, advisor to the film-makers, has announced that a final edit version should be ready to view by the end of April. It will be premièred simultaneously in Zhoushan and London hopefully, the latter for relatives and invited guests, such as the service associations concerned. The film will go on general

release later in the year.

As background, Denise Wynne, the daughter of Dennis Morley, the last survivor of the Lisbon Maru, wrote to President Xi Jinping of China, asking that a memorial be put up in China for the victims and to honour the courage of the Zhoushan fishermen who saved so many lives. The reply, delivered by the Chinese Ambassador in London, Zheng Zeguang, informed Denise that President Xi had instructed the relevant authorities to look into the question of a memorial. The president also stressed that the story of the Lisbon Maru was an example of friendship "forged in the flames of war" and emphasised the importance of building on the story to develop the relationship between peoples.



Relatives throw flowers at the site of the sinking to mark the 80th anniversary.

Ambassador Zheng has been keen to follow this up and meet families of the POWs. In mid-February, he hosted a gathering of some 120 relatives, where Denise read out the letter she had written to President Xi, and his response.

Brian also provided an update on the film and the ambassador explained that preparations for a memorial in China were well underway. The Chinese Embassy website may produce a report on the event, with photographs.

Brian is also planning to organise an event at the NMA on 2nd October this year, to mark the 81st Anniversary of the sinking. Plans will be announced in due course.

For more information, Brian can be contacted at: bfinch1941@gmail.com



Update from Thai/Burma Railway Centre (TBRC)

in Thailand, following impact of Covid-19



The Thai/Burma Railway Museum and Research Centre near Kanchanaburi in Thailand, is a renowned facility, dedicated to providing permanent testimony to the conditions endured and fortitude shown in captivity by British and Commonwealth POWs in the Far-East. COFEPOW Quarterly newsletters have carried fund-raising appeals, whilst promoting the centre's research work in helping families learn more about their FEPOWs.

Terry Manttan, General Manager of the TBRC, wishes to thank everyone who has contributed, and has provided the following update, received in March...

"As previously reported, TBRC, like many others in the world, was substantially impacted by the serious repercussions brought on by the reactions of various world governments to the Covid-19 pandemic. It's probably fair to say the world, as we knew it, was brought to its knees.

During 2021, as Covid continued to extend way beyond any previously imagined time-frame and TBRC's future was looking uncertain, there were some very proactive steps taken by a number of good friends/supporters around the world, who understand and strongly support the valuable research work TBRC has done over 20 years and continues to do so for the direct benefit of POW-related families. Their wonderful initiatives rallied support for funding assistance, which gathered momentum and included all similarly devoted organisations in the UK and other countries, and a number of individuals also got behind the cause. With much of the world gradually re-opening to international travel from mid-2022, it's now time to give an update to all our friends and supporters on how we're progressing.

With this greatly valued assistance when we needed it most, we are pleased and proud to say we have managed to keep our experienced and dedicated team, allowing us to respond very quickly to the regeneration of international travel as it continues to gain momentum. Recovery has been quicker than we might have hoped and we are now back to around 75 to 80% of our visitor levels, prior to the world shut-down in early 2020. We are back in full swing!

On behalf of all of our TBRC team, we would like to offer a sincere

and heartfelt thank you to all who have helped us survive these unprecedented times. It's also very important to add that we have not only survived to continue our valuable work, but our team has worked tirelessly on extensive recording and research projects during the enforced 'quiet times' that has enabled our records to grow substantially over the last couple of years – on projects that we may never have had the time to complete.

So we are better equipped than ever at helping POW-related families and, while ongoing donations to assist with our research costs will always be very welcome and put to very good use, we can look forward with great optimism to what we hope will be a complete recovery by 2024 and especially to continuing our work for future generations. Thank you again!"

Terry Manttan,
General Manager

Sandra Norman's 'gofundme' page.

"The latest on my fund-raising campaign 'Keep the Death Railway Museum Alive'. I am pleased to report that the target of £3,000 has been reached with the total now at £3,096. I have now agreed with Terry Manttan that as our collective goal has been realised, the time has come to take my page down.

"Anyone who wishes to do so may still donate directly to the museum. The easiest way is online via 'Wise' (formerly 'TransferWise') with your account in the name of an individual, as it doesn't work in the case of companies or organisations. Details of the bank account to which the donation should be sent can be obtained from Terry at: admin@tbrconline.com

"We visited the TBRC in September 2022 and had an amazing trip. In the months since, pilgrimage enquiries

and bookings have increased substantially, and daily visitors are now increasing to pre-pandemic levels.

"I am immeasurably grateful to all those who donated in support of my cause. I also wish to send my thanks to the trustees for their sizeable financial contribution and to Chris Wills for her continuing support and patience. We're hoping to make another trip to the museum in March 2024, as it has now gathered more information about the most northern camps where my Dad was held. The team at the museum is as dedicated and passionate as ever. I honestly don't think we can ask for more."

If you wish to donate to the TBRC/and or get details of your FEPOW relative's time in captivity, please print off, enlarge and complete the form shown or email Terry at admin@tbrconline.com for a larger version.

THAILAND-BURMA RAILWAY CENTRE (TBRC)	
Kanchanaburi, Thailand.	
P.O.W. enquiry	
Your relationship to the POW?	
Did he survive the war?	
Please complete, to whatever extent possible, the following information about the veteran:	
Surname	
Other names	
Nation served with	
Date of birth	
Army/Navy/Air Force	
Name of his military unit	
Rank	
Any other information that may be of assistance or interest	
ABOUT TBRC:	TBRC is a privately operated, world-class Museum and Research Centre (opened in Kanchanaburi, Thailand in 2003) with a few long-serving Researchers dedicated to ensuring the story of the Thailand-Burma Railway (1942 to 1945) is never forgotten and to providing ongoing research to enquiring families for present and future generations.
ABOUT OUR RECORDS:	While our research is ongoing and our records continue to grow, we currently have in excess of 106,000 individuals of all serving nationalities in our database with detailed information added to each record as found. Additionally we have over 95,000 hospital admission and discharge records now individually identified and digitally recorded. In conjunction with all available Japanese Index Cards and Liberation Questionnaires plus a large number of Books, Personal Accounts, Diaries and Reports, we are in a unique position to offer rapid, comprehensive, factually based and researched information to related family members who we believe have a right to know.
Please contact TBRC Research Department staff (in the Research Centre on the second floor of the Museum or by email). Thailand-Burma Railway Centre (T.B.R.C. Co. Ltd) 73 Jaokunnen Road, Ban Nua, Muang, Kanchanaburi 71000, THAILAND. email: admin@tbrconline.com website: www.tbrconline.com	
All information is gathered during extensive research by TBRC, relying on both official and unofficial sources and with in-depth accumulated personal knowledge. Such information is offered in good faith and while great care is taken in recording facts, absolute accuracy cannot be guaranteed in every instance.	
LEST WE FORGET	

Oxford University to preserve war stories

'Their Finest Hour' is a University of Oxford project, launched last year, which aims to empower families and local communities to share and digitally archive their stories and objects of the Second World War.

Running until July 2024, the project will offer free training sessions to anyone interested in organising and operating their own Digital Collection Days, where members of the public can bring along Second World War-related stories and objects to be uploaded to an online archive.

The scheme will also work with museums, libraries and heritage centres to hold 15 large-scale Digital Collection Days across the UK, although there will also be the option of submitting stories and images remotely.

Mike Clarke, COFEPOW Area Co-ordinator for Oxfordshire, has been invited to participate in the project, with the possibility of holding a digital collection day for members and/or the general public. He suggests if any member is interested in submitting material to the project, first contact should be through the Oxfordshire COFEPOW Members' Group and he welcomes enquiries at mikejclarke27@hotmail.com

Nell Carrington, member of the English Faculty and Project Coordinator, would also be interested in reaching COFEPOW members nationally, and can be contacted at nell.carrington@elllox.ac.uk

More details of the project are available at www.theirfinesthour.org.uk

Thought to be last survivor of the River Kwai bridge celebrates 103rd birthday



Patrick Toosey, COFEPOW Honorary Life Member and son of Colonel Sir Philip Toosey, on whom Alec Guinness's character in the film 'The Bridge over the River Kwai' was falsely purported to have been based, has alerted us to the 103rd birthday of one of his father's men.

Cyril Doy was a 22-year-old British Army Private in the Royal Norfolks when he was captured in Singapore in 1942. It was the start of three-and-a-half years of shocking malnutrition, disease and brutality, as he and others were forced to build the infamous 'Railway of Death'. He is thought to be the last remaining former POW to have worked on the infamous bridge over the Kwai, on the Thai/Burma railway.

Like so many British soldiers dispatched to Singapore, Cyril was totally unprepared for what he was to face.

"Everybody was as green as grass, officers and all. It was all badly planned in my opinion," he recalls.



Military intelligence was limited and the enemy advance so rapid, Cyril was sent straight into enemy hands. He and colleagues were captured without a shot fired and lined up next to local workers in front of a machine gun, expecting the worst. Suddenly, the Japanese started shouting wildly as they learned that the British had capitulated, and so stood down.

Cyril was dispatched to work on the bridge over the river Kwai, and was condemned to spend hours every day in the river, manoeuvring logs into place, with only rice and watery soup and little or no medicines to treat the lethal illnesses of dysentery and beri-beri.

After the war, he returned to Lowestoft, where his father didn't recognise him as he arrived at the train station. Cyril carries permanent reminders

of captivity, with red patches on his head from long hours working in the sun and his leg features a large plaster covering a scar from a wound sustained in 1942.

Only a handful of former POWs are still alive now and all more than 100 years old.

Today, Cyril's views on the 1957 Oscar-winning film 'Bridge on the River Kwai' are scornful:

"A film that both belied and defiled the true facts" he says. His feelings about his senior officer on the bridge, Colonel Toosey, are clear. To Cyril, he was "a wonderful man" who was driven solely by the aim of keeping as many of his men alive as possible.

This story was inspired by the Express online.

FEPOW Album Page

This collection holds brief facts about each FEPOW's incarceration and service, and is written by their immediate relative, collated by COFEPOW and held on show in the FEPOW Building museum, for all to read. If you'd like to create an album page for your FEPOW relative or friend, please view the link on <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/fepow-photo-album>. Chris Wills would like to remind anyone who contributed previously and would like their FEPOW relative to be included again, to contact her at chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk

Research database for FEPOW facts

COFEPOW has spent many years of unstinting dedication and commitment to assemble a comprehensive database of information on the wartime service and captivity of over 50,000 former FEPOWs. Sources have included the Military Archives at Kew, the Imperial War Museum and Services records across the commonwealth. View your FEPOW facts at <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/research-database>

How to send your FEPOW family story to the Changi museum



Photography: courtesy of the museum



**1000 Upper Changi Road North,
Singapore 507707.**

The database of FEPOWs and civilian internees available at the Changi Chapel and Museum contains information accumulated from 'Findmypast', which has digitised a number of Kew Military Archive records.

Given the nature of the records, the National Museum of Singapore is aware that the database is incomplete and views it as a 'living' one, which invites contributions from visitors and family members to expand it.

The curators apologise that a number of COFEPOW members' relatives' information could not be viewed or retrieved and have asked for COFEPOW members to send information about their FEPOW relative to them, so they can include the data directly into their database within the museum.

The information the Changi Chapel and Museum invites you to provide includes contributions of stories and photographs about POWs and civilians who were interned in Changi during World War Two, as well as relevant donations which document the internees' experiences or are otherwise related to the internees.

If you would like to contribute a story to the CCM database, please complete the form alongside, print or cut out this page, and scan or reproduce the appropriate facts on a plain sheet of paper and post to the museum at the address above, marking your submission as 'COFEPOW RESEARCH DATA'.

Or please email to:

NHB_NMS_Curatorial@nhb.gov.sg

Full name of internee:	
Nationality:	
Date of Birth:	
Date of Death:	
If internee was a soldier:	Unit: Rank: Service No.: Occupation:
If internee was a civilian:	
Internment camp(s) and dates:	
Period of Internment:	
Personal story: (Related to war experience and internment in Singapore)	
Objects/images related to the internee's experience in Changi: Softcopy files can be emailed to the following email address: NHB_NMS_Curatorial@nhb.gov.sg	
Contributor details:	Name: Relation to internee: Contact details (for internal reference only):

Changi Chapel and Museum is managed by the National Museum of Singapore.

I am agreeable to the information I have provided being added to the internee database for public access at the Changi Chapel and Museum.

Perfect gifts and fitting mementoes

A comprehensive selection of quality COFEPOW branded merchandise, priced competitively to help the charity.

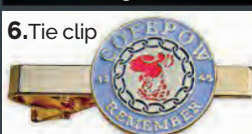
1. Blue pen with logo



3. 30mm diameter 75th anniversary of VJ Day commemorative enamel pin badge in blue velvet presentation box



4. VJ70 mug



6. Tie clip



5. Car sticker



8. Badge



9. Badge



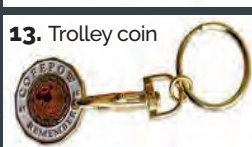
7. Lapel badge



10. Key ring



12. Note holder



13. Trolley coin



14. VJ70 Medallion



15. Tie



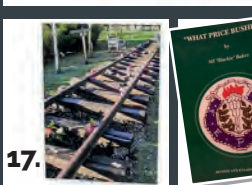
11. Wooden frame A3 landscape



16. Cloth shopping bag
37cm (14½") x 47cm (16") cloth



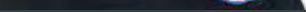
17. Notelets



18. Polo Shirt



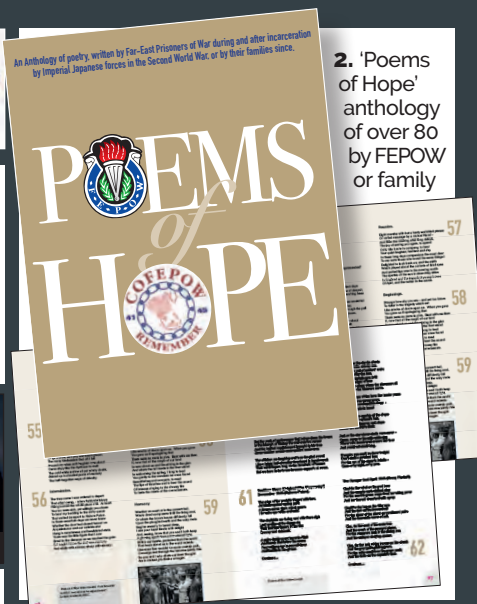
18. Polo Shirt



19. Range of books at COFEPOW prices!



2. 'Poems of Hope' anthology of over 80 by FEPOW or family



Merchandising Officers, Sylvie and Nick Bullen-Bell, would like to thank all members who have purchased COFEPOW merchandise to wear or use with pride and to those who have made additional donations to the charity. Through your generosity, a substantial quantity of merchandise is being sold over the year to help COFEPOW funds. A further big thank you to all those who add a donation (however big or small) to the COFEPOW funds with their merchandise purchase. Every penny donated helps the charity.

Besides the additions of the Anthology of FEPOW poetry, FEPOW photo-frames are available to include your FEPOW's photograph, cap badge, regimental colour, FEPOW medals, the COFEPOW poem and a poppy in an elegant frame. Please email Nick or Sylvie at the address below, indicating whether you have a suitable photograph and badge, and they'll get back to you as soon as possible with a price for your frame.

Details of ordering/payment methods for all merchandise, including Paypal and overseas postage costs, can be obtained by emailing Nick or Sylvie at: tickles.sbb@gmail.com, post or phone 01245 222 604/mobile 07721 067501. Information is also available on the COFEPOW website. For general information or if you would like to submit ideas for merchandise, please also email us.

Items shown are not to scale.

Current merchandise price list

ITEM	Price	P&P
1. Blue pen with logo and website	£1.00	£0.88
2. FEPOW Poetry Anthology book	£11.99	£3.00*
3. Special VJ Day 75 pin badge	£4.00	£3.10
4. VJ 70 Mugs	£8.50	£3.10
5. Car Sticker	£1.00	£0.65
6. Tie clip	£3.00	£0.88
7. Lapel Pin Badge	£2.00	£0.88
8. Woven COFEPOW Badge	£3.50	£0.65
9. Poppy Woven Badge	£2.50	£0.65
10. Key ring	£3.50	£0.88
11. FEPOW Photo Frame	TBA	
12. Note Holder	£2.50	£0.88
13. Trolley coin	£3.25	£0.88
14. VJ70 Medallion	£7.50	£3.10
15. Tie	£12.99	£0.88
16. Cloth Shopping bag 14.5" x 16"	£2.50	£0.88
17. Pack of 10 Notelets, inc. envelopes	£2.50	£0.88
18. Unisex Polo shirts (B/W) M, L, XL. (Low white stock - new ordered)	£16.00	£3.10
19. BOOKS - Title		
'When You Go Home'/Arthur Lane	£5.00	£3.10
'What Price Bushido'/Alf Baker	£5.00	£3.10
List Price COFEPOW		
'Conjuror on the Kwai'	£9.99	£3.50
'Surviving the Japanese Onslaught'	£19.99	£6.50
'Faith, Hope and Rice' Only 2 remaining	£19.99	£6.50
'Escape from the Japanese'	£19.99	£6.50

*P&P in Europe £6.00, elsewhere £10.00.

Submissions invited for second 'Poems of Hope'

In 2019, the trustees of COFEPOW initiated a drive to collate as many poems written by FEPOWs and their families as possible, to create an anthology of poetry. The collection featured over 80 poems, many of which were written during captivity, or were based on recollections or emotions experienced by close family since the war. Published under the title "Poems of Hope", it went on sale via the merchandising office at £11.99 and has sold well to raise funds for the charity.

A second volume is being assessed for viability and is hoped to contain not only poetry by captives, but also stories, and thoughts or memories of loved ones in poetry form.

Merchandising Officers, Nick and Sylvie Bullen-Bell are asking for contributions of any new or freshly discovered poetry to be included. Any originals will be returned, but in the interests of protecting family heirlooms, they would prefer if rewritten or typed contributions could be submitted.

If you would like to provide any poems, please contact them at the merchandising office by emailing: tickles.sbb@gmail.com, phone 01245 222 604/mobile 07721 067501.

Information will also be available on the COFEPOW website in due course, at www.cofepow.org.uk

Obituary

Rouse Osbert Voisey

28th July 1920 – 27th December 2022



COFEPOW is sad to report on the passing of 102-year-old Rouse Voisey, one of our oldest FEPOWs. Rouse was a COFEPOW member and attended many meetings in Norwich.

The youngest of five brothers, he joined the RAF in 1937 at the age of 17, as an Air Fitter. Sent to the Far-East, he was captured on the Indonesian Island of Java and, like so many, was made to work on several forced labour projects whilst a Japanese POW, including the railway and an air strip. He was one of 700 survivors of the Junyo Maru cargo ship that was torpedoed on 18th September 1944 by



British submarine HMS Tradewind, in which over 5,600 lost their lives. Rouse survived by holding on to a piece of wood for about 40 hours, before being picked up by a Japanese ship and taken to Sumatra, where he was forced to work on the railway again, for the next 18 months.

After the war, he returned to Norwich and married Doreen Webster - the couple were together for 62 years until Doreen's death in 2010. Although they never had children, they were aunt and uncle to many.

Marian Lowe, an active Norwich member of COFEPOW, along with husband George, who was also a FEPOW, were great friends with Rouse and Doreen for over 30 years and used to go caravanning together, where in the evenings many board and card games were played.

Rouse was a very mild man and spent his last four years in the Warren care home in Norwich, where he was well-liked by the caring staff. He loved Classic FM and sport on TV, and had a wonderful outlook on life. He is also featured being interviewed on one of the video screens in the FEPOW Memorial Building, giving his take on his time as a POW.

Marian summed up Rouse, saying: "Above all, he was a gentle man, and a true gentleman."

Graham Robertson

Getting involved in COFEPOW

Since the foundation of COFEPOW in 1997, volunteer trustees, officers and members have built this remarkable association of families and friends, fulfilling its aim of ensuring those servicemen, women and civilian internees who were incarcerated by brutal enemy forces in the Far-East, those who died and those who came home to continue sometimes difficult lives, are honoured and remembered.

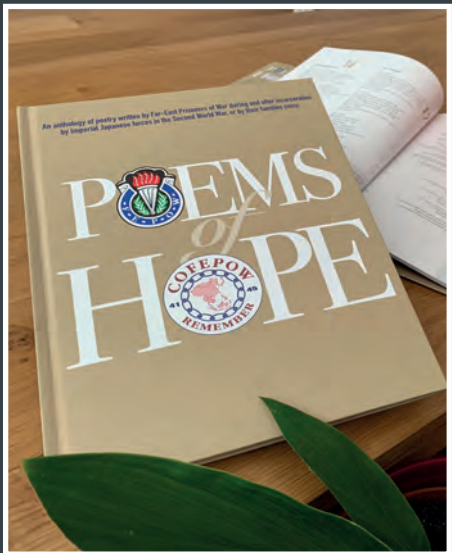
Significant work is entailed in generating funds to maintain the FEPOW

Memorial Building as annual costs run to many thousands of pounds. There is also the need to generate monies for other Memorials and Services of Remembrance around the country.

Is anything happening in your area relating to FEPOWs? If you think you could help organise local meetings of members, maintaining memorials, organising community groups, dinners, lectures and memory-sharing, then please contact Chris Wills by email at: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk.

Donations **Donations £150:** Dollar History Society, following Rory Laird's talk.

Over £100.00: Ian Stitt. **Up to £50.00:** Ian Trollope, Myra Beczkowicz, Brian Barlow, Mr and Mrs Blyth, Karen Ingrams, Christine Harfoot, James Whiskens, Francis Wingfield, Betty Poulter, Joan Thomas, Thomas and Catherine O'Donnell, Mr and Mrs Braybrook, Christine Nokes, Mr and Mrs Hillon and Mr J. Stewart.



DATA PROTECTION: please read the following carefully:

COFEPoW only publishes details of new members in this quarterly newsletter. Each new member is given the option on the application form to stipulate that their personal address/telephone/email details are not included in the listing. If you are happy for your details to be included in the newsletter when you join, your local Area Co-ordinator will also be informed within their region. Each Co-ordinator is conversant with data protection legislation and your details are not shared again. Only officers of the charity will have access to this information going forward and all information is protected in accordance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). Any bylines, credits and contact details within articles and features are included with the originators' approval.

NAME	LOCATION	EMAIL	FEPOW (if applicable)
Hannah Moore	Bristol	hdugay@googlemail.com	Grandfather - John Gardhouse
Paul Howard	Eastbourne	paulhoward109@btinternet.com	Father - Edward Harold Howard, RAMC
Vicki Allison	Spondon	vickiharris_5@hotmail.com	Father - John Woolfrey, Worcestershires
Paul Victor Hayball	France	villalescascades@gmail.com	Uncle - William George Hayball, Royal Navy
Christina O'Leary	Lincoln	christinaoleary05@gmail.com	Father - John David O'Leary, 2nd East Surreys
John Robert Wyn Owen	Llandudno	jrwowen@hotmail.co.uk	Father - John Robert Owen RASC., 18th Div.
Teresa Ranson	Cambridge	tjranson@hotmail.co.uk	Grandfather - Samuel Richard Giddens, Suffolks
Neil James Williamson	Southam	njw44@hotmail.com	Father - Arthur Williamson, Royal Marines
Joyce Browning	Woking	joycebrowning@ymail.com	Father - Charles James Browning, East Surreys.
David John Brain	Surrey	davidjbrain@virginmedia.com	Father - Richard Charles Brain, 3AA Battery, RA.
Caroline Jane Gadd	Hampshire	carolinegadd2020@gmail.com	Grandfather - William Harry Privett, RAMC
Dr Ion Grove-White	Montrose	iongw@doctors.org.uk	Father - Dr. R. John Grove-White, Civilian
Lesley Bambridge	King's Lynn	lesley.bambridge@gmail.com	Father - Peter Grimmer Bambridge, North Norfolks
Judy Barradell-Smith	Tirrold	judybs1184@icloud.com	Grandfather - Harold James Page, Civilian
Karen Bongard	New Zealand	karenbongard@gmail.com	Great Uncle - Harper Mervyn Bongard, RAF 84 Sqd
Bruce Duncan	Thames Ditton	bmduncan70@gmail.com	Great Uncle - Frank Williams, Royal Artillery
Martin Vagoni	Gateshead	marvag1954@gmail.com	Father - Joseph Vagoni, 9th Batt'n Nor'land Fusiliers
Philip Manley	Kelso	styzpm1@yahoo.co.uk	Great Uncle - Harold Dunbar, Royal Artillery 11/3 HAA
Paula and Paul Holmes	Derbyshire	p.m_holmes@btinternet.com	Father - Herbert Stanley Hill, Royal Signals
Dr Jane Rees	Crewe	docrees@hotmail.com	Father - John Noel Rees, 88th Army Field Regiment
Vivienne McCulloch	Shoreham	miragassi@outlook.com	Father - Robert William McCulloch, RAAF
Jared William Watson	Lehi, USA	jaredww@gmail.com	Cousin - Johnson Gibbs, 6th H.A.A. 12th Brigade
P. Brotherton/P. Rolls	Walsall	pambrotherton50@hotmail.com	Father - Ernest Rolls, R. Signals/REME/M'Sex Reg't
Stephanie Thompson	-	steph.beasley@hotmail.co.uk	Grandfather - Thomas Arthur Haywood
Yvonne Chadwick	Bury	chadwick.ye@gmail.com	Father - Samson Ford Gledhill
Thomas Matthew Davie	-	matt.davie@gmail.com	Great Uncle - Richard Rowland Evans, 6th Norfolks
Paula Brace	Weston-s-Mare	paulabrace@hotmail.com	Grandfather - Launcelot Harry George Marshall
Patrick Maguire	Bury St Edmunds	prmaguire@hotmail.co.uk	-
Duncan McGregor	-	duncan.mcgregor503@gmail.com	Great Uncle - Duncan Roy McGregor, DLI
Mr Norman Bergin	Solihull	nwbergin@icloud.com	Uncle - Norman Bergin, 88th Field Regiment, RA
Kevin Hunn	Norwich	kev.hunn@gmail.com	Father - Edwin Walter Hunn, 5th Norfolks.
Anita Toscani	Dorset	anita.toscani@me.com	Father - James Harston Pennock, RAF
Matthew George Rice	Queensland	mattgwrice@hotmail.com	Grandfather - George William Wilson, Royal Engineers
Cavan Dennis Sullivan	Northants	cavan_d_sullivan@hotmail.com	Father - Arthur Dennis Sullivan, Cambridgeshires
Diane and Ian Godfrey	North Devon	diane@godberz.plus.com	Father - Ivor Malcolm Terence Jeffries, 605 Sqd., RAF
Robert Platts	Nottingham	robplatts61@gmail.com	Father - George Arthur Platts - 1st Battalion, Leics.
Sue Bairstow	Alnwick	suebairstow7@btinternet.com	Father - John Holroyd Bairstow, RAF
Hannah Boothman	Woking	hannahboothman@mac.com	Father - Ronald Autton Carter, Royal Corps of Signals
Derek Michael Jones	Swansea	jonesthegas@yahoo.co.uk	Father - Leslie Jones, Royal Artillery
David Rackham	Norwich	davidrackham@btinternet.com	Great Uncle - Percy George Coleman, Royal Norfolks
Alan Eric Leech	Derby	a_jleech@btinternet.com	Father - Eric Leech, 18th Recce Corps

Continued on next page...

More New members



Continued from previous page...

NAME	LOCATION	EMAIL	FEPOW (if applicable)
Stuart Guy	Chester	stuart.guy@btinternet.com	Father - Robert Guy, RAF 153 Maintenance Unit
Philip Christopher Buxton	Uxbridge	philip.buxton@yahoo.co.uk	Father - Philip Buxton, 5th Battalion, Royal Norfolks
Penny Stanton	-	pendan13@aol.com	Father - Reginald Diggins, 9th Coast RA Regiment
Nicole Archer-Waring	Wiltshire	myfamilyhistory88@gmail.com	Mother - Anita Elaine Harrison, Civilian
Marilyn Anderton	Catford	malandergeorge@gmail.com	Father - George Anderton, Royal Signals, 18th Division
Christine Pearce	Halesowen	ceedeepee13@gmail.com	Father - Walter Pearce, RAF
Mike Hellen	Chelmsford	mike.hellen@blueyonder.co.uk	Father - Alfred Henry Hellen
Valerie Frances Cooper	Sandy	fannycoops@btinternet.com	Father - Bryan Leslie Cooper, Beds and Herts Reg't
Dawn D Jarvis	Doncaster	lottypots57@hotmail.co.uk	N/A - John 'Jack' Bates - East Surrey Regiment
James Dow	Hamilton	jamesdow@yahoo.co.uk	Father - Malcolm Dow, Military Police
Karen Hebdon	Perth	karenhebdon1978@gmail.com	Grandfather - Thomas Dow, Shanghai police Julia
Thompson	Solihull	julia_thompson@hotmail.co.uk	Great Uncle - George Barber Cowan, Royal Engineers
I. Brotherton/R. Sharpe	Dorset	ianb748@hotmail.com	Grandfather/Father John (Jack) Sharpe - 1st Leics.
Dawn Miller	Desford	millerdawn34@yahoo.com	Grandfather - Frederick Bowler, 288th Field Co. RE.
David Duroe	Tenbury Wells	david_duroe@sky.com	Second cousin - Charles Duroe
Darren Little	Newport	darrenlttl@aol.com	Great Uncle - George Henry Hall, 5th Batt Norfolks
John Hollingsworth	Bradford	johnh.1085@yahoo.co.uk	Father - John Tasker Hollingsworth, RAOC
Susan Rath	Australia	smrfamilytree@gmail.com	Grandfather - Captain Walter Henry Cliff
Prof Alan Berry	Wetherby	berry4hollybush@outlook.com	-
Lucy Joan Roue	Manchester	lucy@timeandtidecontent.com	Grandfather - James Nicholas Roue, Royal Navy
Lizzie Wilson	-	wilsonea106@gmail.com	-
Alistair Lawrence	Edinburgh	alistair.lawrence37@hotmail.co.uk	Father - Henry Rankin Lawrence, FMSVF
Fred J Thorpe	Isle of Wight	fredthorpe0@gmail.com	Father - A E Thorpe, 2nd Cambs, 18th Div.
Michael Lithgow	Faringdon	milithgow@me.com	Father - John Robinson Lithgow, RAOC
Lorrena Lane	Peterborough	dizzy.6@sky.com	Grandfather - Edward Lane, Suffolk Regiment
Joshua De Cruz	London	joshjuliagrace@gmail.com	Father - Guy de Cruz, Singapore Volunteer Corps
Siobhan Keleher	Norwich	siobhan.keleher@me.com	Grandfather - Horace Keleher, 35th LAA 144 Battery
Claire Robbins	London	lizard979899@yahoo.com	Father - Edward James Anthony Robbins, Norfolk Reg't.
Cecilia Lassen	Lymington	celia@lassen1.co.uk	Father - Basil Patteson Walker-Taylor
Beverley Brooks	Tonbridge	bevbrooks8@gmail.com	Father - Henry Herbert Brooks, 242 Squadron RAF
Pamela Grace Heath	Stoke	pamheath75@yahoo.co.uk	Father - John Dillon, the Cambridgeshire Regiment
Robert Sawyer	Tiptree	bobksawyer@gmail.com	Father - Kenneth Sawyer - RAVC
Craig Robertson	Christchurch, NZ	knac@xtra.co.nz	Great Grandfather - Edward Malim
Catherine Irving	London	catherine.irving@googlemail.com	Grandfather - William Irving, 80th Anti-Tank Regiment
Richard Alexander	Nr. Doncaster	richalexander@email.com	Grandfather - Harry Penny-Larter, Royal Engineers
Joanne Green	Winteringham	joanne.green1@gmail.com	Grandfather - Robert McAvoy
Melinda Clive	Queensland	mmclive@bigpond.net.au	Grandfather - Francis Christie, 2nd Argyll & Sutherland
Sally Stringer	Lincolnshire	sallymkucas@gmail.com	Father - John Lucas, 2nd 7th Gurkha Rifles
Chris Hodkinson	St Neots	chris.hodkinson@btinternet.co	Grandfather-in-law - Ronald Wright, 4th Norfolks
Philip Stubbington	Oxfordshire	philstubbington@icloud.com	Grandfather - James Kellett, FMSR Engineer
Carr James Montgomery	Thurso	carr.montgomery@outlook.com	Father - Carr James Low Montgomery, 2nd Btn Gordons
Colin Rory Laird	Dollar, Falkirk	rorylaird@hotmail.co.uk	Father - Richard Laird, Royal Army Service Corps
Pauline and Denis Shiels	-	dsps1976@gmail.com	Father - Waldron (Bill) Chatfield - Royal Artillery, Sussex
Catherine Hewitt	Lincoln	info@rememberingthejewsofww2.com	No relation - David Davis, 125 Anti Tank Regt.
Michael Richards	Rugeley	michael.richards@thermofisher.com	Grandfather - Cecil Brown, and James Brown, Royal Northumbrian Fusiliers

Patrons, trustees, members, officers and officials.

COFEPOW: Children, Families and Friends of the Far East Prisoners of War, incorporating FEPOW. Registered address: 3 Blossom Way, Little Billing, Northampton NN3 9ET. Tel: 07930 960241. email: cofepow.chairman@gmail.com Website: www.cofepow.org.uk Registered charity, number 1074474.

Patrons: **TERRY WAITE** CBE, **LIEUTENANT COLONEL C.G. STALLARD** (Rtd.), **DAVID CHILDS** CBE D. Litt., **SIR HENRY EVERY** Bt. DL FCA., **GENERAL SIR JAMES EVERARD** KCB CBE. Trustees: **DAVID BREDE**, **DAVID BROWN**, **KAREN BROWN**, **NICK BULLEN-BELL**, **SYLVIE BULLEN-BELL**, **ALEXANDRA METCALFE-HUME**, **GUY METCALFE-HUME** email: gmetcalfehume@gmail.com **SHARON MORRIS-MEE** email: sharonmorrismee@outlook.com and **CHRISTINE WILLS** email: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk

Chairman: **DAVID BREDE** email: cofepow.chairman@gmail.com

Secretary: Vacant at time of going to press.

Treasurer: **DAVID BROWN** email: medalchart@live.co.uk

Head of Research: **KEITH ANDREWS** email: scubaka@yahoo.co.uk

Honorary Life President: **CAROL COOPER**.

Honorary Life Members: **PATRICK TOOSEY**, **PAM STUBBS**, **RON TAYLOR** AND **BRIAN HUME**.

COFEPOW Padre: **DAVID CHILDS** CBE, D. Litt.

National Event Co-ordinator: **NIKKI ARCHER-WARING** email: events@cofepow.org.uk

Merchandise Officers: **NICK AND SYLVIE BULLEN-BELL** email: tickles.sbb@gmail.com

Area Co-ordinator Officer: **ALEXANDRA METCALFE-HUME** email: ametcalfehume@gmail.com

Far-East Travel Adviser: **MARTIN PRECHNER** email: roquefort44@hotmail.com

Membership Officer: **KAREN BROWN** email: cofepow.membership@gmail.com

M: 07935 312349. Membership fee per annum: **£15** per person, or **£21** per joint membership.

Payable annually in August. Please send to: 14, Ridgcroft, Ashton under Lyne,

Greater Manchester OL7 9TG. Payments can be made by cheque, payable to COFEPOW, or please visit the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk for all payment methods.

Donations are also welcome and can be made to the Membership Officer by cheque, payable to COFEPOW, or at the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk

The FEPOW Memorial Building Archives at the NMA are open to visitors by arrangement.

If you would like access to the material held there, you must be accompanied by a COFEPOW officer. If you would like to visit, on a Sunday preferably, please arrange with Keith Andrews.

Head of Research, on 01530 450621. Thank you.

Area Coordinators. Please note: the list of Area Co-ordinators is provided to facilitate access to a local group for members. The trustees are also anxious to recruit Co-ordinator volunteers for overseas, and for regions in the UK not covered below, particularly in Beds, Bucks, Herts, Staffs, Warwicks, Wilts, West Hants, East Somerset and Yorks., where we enjoy existing groups which no longer have a Co-ordinator. If you have a Co-ordinator near you, they would welcome you making contact, with a view to meeting and sharing knowledge and memories about your FEPOWs.

Area	Name	Email
1. Birmingham and the Black Country	Annette Hughes	cranedriver1964@live.com
2. Derbyshire	John Rutherford	Joruth27@gmail.com
3. Devon and Cornwall	David and Val Warner	davalofcedartree@gmail.com
4. Dorset	Ann Whiteside	louisewhiteside7426@gmail.com
5. Essex	Nick Bullen-Bell	bullebell@btinternet.com
6. Gloucestershire	Diane Vear	dianevear@yahoo.co.uk
7. Greater Manchester and east Cheshire	Robert McGechan	bobmcgechan@yahoo.co.uk
8. Herefordshire and the Wye Valley	Kerry Bird	hanjoem@gmail.com
9. Kent	Brian Faulkner	faulkner2021@btinternet.com
10. Leicestershire	Shirley Barnes	shirleyb60@virginmedia.com
11. Lincolnshire	Hazel Taylor	hazel.taylor@yahoo.co.uk
12. Merseyside and Lancashire	Colin Coleman	colin.colemanuk@mac.com
13. New Zealand	Hilary Cunningham	hilarycunningham1@gmail.com
14. Norfolk	Thelma Johnson	tjohnson4@btinternet.com
15. Northamptonshire	David Brede	davidbrede@yahoo.com
16. Oxfordshire	Mike Clarke	mikejclarke27@hotmail.com
17. Scotland	Jackie Sutherland	skyscape96@gmail.com
18. South Wales	Tony Jukes	bajukes@tiscali.co.uk
19. Surrey	Una Price	trryroger@aol.com
20. West Sussex	Elizabeth Hallett	wscfepow@gmail.com
21. Yorkshire	New vacancy	
22. USA (East coast)	Jan Slimming	jslimming@comcast.net
23. USA (West coast)	Sharon Cusumano	lestweforget1941@gmail.com

Donations can be made to COFEPOW via cheque or transfer. See above.



Help and information

While researching personal information, members below have accumulated data which they are happy to pass on and share with others.

They are as follows:

Amanda Johnson: Haruku/Ambon and Moluccas (Spice Islands)

email: amanda@dcodetranslations.co.uk

Agnes Dougan: 155th (Lanarkshire Yeomanry)

Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

email: agnes.dougan@live.com

Jean Roberts: 3rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Saigon Party.

email: jeanadrianroberts@gmail.com

Steve Mockridge: Jesselton, Sandakan and Kuchin.

email: smockridge@sky.com

Keith Andrews: Singapore Coast Regiments and A.A.

Artillery and Thailand. email: scubaka@yahoo.co.uk

Colin Docketty: Rabaul and Ballale Island.

Frank Clark: Saigon.

email: paghamfrank@talktalk.net

Thailand-Burma Railway Centre:

All things related to the Thai-Burma railway.

email: admin@tbrconline.com

Address: Thailand-Burma Railway Museum,

Kanchanaburi, Thailand: www.tbrconline.com

Derek Lawson: Deaths in captivity.

email: lawsonderek@hotmail.com

Michael Hurst MBE: Director, Taiwan POW Camps

Memorial Society. email: society@powtaiwan.org

Web: www.powtaiwan.org

Hong Kong:

Tony Banham, email: tony@hongkongwardiary.com

Web: hongkongwardiary.com

David Tett: The subject of 'mails'.

Also: www.fepowmail.com may be useful.

Welfare Grants: Grants are available from the FEPOWs' Central Welfare Fund for all FEPOWs, wives and widows. It covers hospital stays, carers, care homes, sheltered accommodation, etc.

For further information contact:

Margaret Martin of the Java FEPOW Club,

email: enquiries@thejavafepowclub42.org

or **Pauline Simpson** of NFFWRA,

email: pauline761@btinternet.com